

PHIL W.

never met him
in all the years
even though he lived
fairly close to me.
finally did, at an
outdoor gathering.
couldn't think
of much to say
except "nice to finally
meet you and i like
your poems."
further, i liked
his wife, too.
2nd time i met them
a group of us
went out for dinner
drank 3 large carafes
of wine, finishing
with brandy. and i liked
them even better.

HOW IT IS

load the blue pick up
with cleaning equipment
warm up the engine.
same work as the day
before and the week
before that.
feeling a sharp sting
on my arm, look down
but nothing is ever there.
just the feel of it,
without the bite.
some pains are so small
it's hard to imagine
teeth that little.

BICYCLE

bought a bike
called "traveler"
carried it up
to my 2nd story
apartment.
let it sit there
in my bedroom
for 3 hours. carried
it back down.
got on, rode a
few feet, fell off
into the ivy plants
and rocks.
got up and on again.
hey, you don't forget
years of spinning
your wheels.

SWAGGER

Darryll stomps
down the drive-way
drunk as a lord,
taking big steps
that don't look
too stable.
he just took \$10
from his wife,
knocked her around
a little & now
he's going
to the liquor store
to get some whiskey
& coke
so he can keep
the man pumping
through him.

-- Ann Menebroker

Elk Grove CA